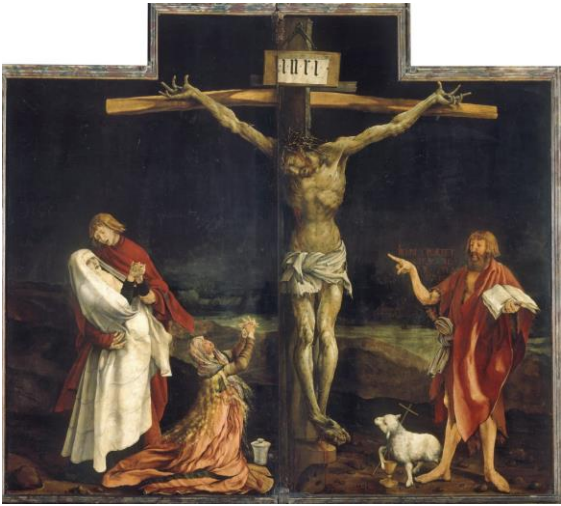


The Parish Voice

St. Thomas Lutheran Church – Streetsboro, Ohio

February 2024



Lent is the liturgical season leading to Easter. It is a time of self-reflection on one's sin in preparation for the celebration of Good Friday, the feast day the Church commemorates Jesus' death for the forgiveness of our sins. It is fitting then that we meditate upon the Lord's death in preparation for our celebration of Easter in March. When Jesus died, He died for both the perpetrators of sin as well as the victims of sin. In this world, we find ourselves in both camps. At times, we sin against God and others; and at other times, people sin against God and us.

Jesus experienced death on the cross as a perpetrator of sin and as a victim of sin. Jesus, the one born without sin, suffered the consequence of sin: death. He died at the hands of sinful men who viewed Him as a religious and political threat, and so devised trumped-up charges to get rid of Him. The Father turned His face away from the Righteous One who lived a life according to His will and went to death accordingly just as He would someone deserving His wrath. Friends and enemies who saw Jesus' suffering neither pitied nor comforted Him. Instead, they heaped burning coals upon a painful situation by either abandoning Him or mocking Him.

On the cross, Jesus identified Himself with perpetrator and victim alike. He died as a sinner so that the sins of humanity would not be counted against them. He died as a victim of sin so that anyone who suffers violence and trauma at the hands of others would not be alone. They have an advocate with the Father who understands their pain and suffering. A profound and offensive truth is revealed in the cross: God is with us, both the victimizer and the victim. He dove deep into the muck of human sin so that He might raise us all out of it. Jesus cried out for victimizer and victim from the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Easter is God's answer to that call. Life beyond death. Forgiveness of sins. Freedom from suffering. Dignity restored to the humiliated. God the Son has identified Himself with your situation, and God the Father has heard and delivered Him from it, meaning that He will do the same for you.

On this side of eternity, God has established His Church for victimizers and victims. Here God invites the perpetrators of sin to confess their sins and turn away from them in repentance. In response, He forgives their sins and gives them new life. For the victims of sin, they have a family of brothers and sisters of Christ on earth, who are there to support and listen to them in their pain. The victory of the victim in this life also takes the form of the forgiveness of sins. When the victim forgives their perpetrator, they take control of their situation by refusing to let their victimizer rule over their mind and emotions with thoughts of hate and revenge.

During Lent and throughout the Christian life, death and resurrection take the form of repentance and forgiveness. Repentance and forgiveness are both painful and liberating. They recognize that there is new life beyond the fallenness of our world, for both sinners and victims of sin, as the Father has shown us by raising the Crucified One from the dead.

Pastor Blake

HELP NEEDED

Pastor Just is asking for help to move the items from the office at church to his newly-constructed office in his home basement. He needs both hands and vehicles to transport several boxes and other equipment. If you are available to help on Saturday, February 10, we'll begin loading and packing about 9:00 a.m. We will need at least one vehicle with capacity for two file cabinets. Thank you!

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FAT TUESDAY

February 13 is Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday. We will be celebrating with a "Come and Mingle" gathering at 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dessert to share. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Bring a friend and come have some fun!

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ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. A supper is being planned for 6:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran with worship to follow at 7:00 p.m. Come meet our sister church congregation for this special worship service.

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LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten services will begin Thursdays on February 22 & 29 and March 7, 14 & 21 at Christ Lutheran in Mantua. We will have soup at 6:00 and worship at 7:00. Bring a friend. See you there!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a way to help out during the service on Sundays. Volunteers are needed for Lectors, Ushers, Communion, Singers and refreshment hosts. See the signup sheets in the Narthex on the bulletin board. If you would like to help out singing during communion or offering, see Marla. She would love to have more voices. Refreshments are being served in the Fellowship Hall once again. It is wonderful to be able to meet with our friends socially after the worship. Join us this Sunday. Thank you for your service!

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SPRING CLEANUP

The property committee has chosen March 16th and 23rd as our spring cleanup Saturdays. All are welcome to help out. We will also be meeting on Saturday, March 30th at 9:00 to prepare the church for Easter Sunday and pancake breakfast which will be held Easter morning at 7:30 a.m.



THANK YOU

We would love to thank all our volunteers who help out in the service and other areas of the church. We wouldn't be able to keep our doors open without all your caring service. You are a great and loving congregation in all you do! Because of your generosity we raised \$881.36 in 2023 for our 1+1+1 fund raiser. Because of your generosity we were able to reach our church budget in 2023. This would not be possible without your caring hearts! Thank you!

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NEW COMMITTEES

New committees are being formed to help improve our congregational life. They are a Property Committee, a Worship Committee and an Evangelism & Spiritual Life Ministry Committee (includes education and social ministry). If you are interested in being on one of these committees please see Pastor or Steve Hlava. Your help with new ideas will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

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OUR SERVICE PROJECTS

We remember all those who are facing a crisis in their lives. Lutheran Missions Ministry is our main organization that we donate to. They are doing a great job helping these families. Mark on your envelopes "Lutheran Mission Ministry".

Please remember the families of Streetsboro by donating to the Streetsboro Community Pantry with a monetary donation or food donation. You can do this through the church through your offering or placing food items in the basket in the Narthex.

Becky Larkins is collecting Paper towels and toilet paper rolls for craft projects. Also 2 litre plastic bottles. You may give them to Deb Wolff. Thank you!

Deb Wolff is collecting bottle caps for Ohio Eastern Star Home. They will be using them to make park benches. Thank you!

Deb Wolff has pickles ready. Please bring back your empty jars and she will fill them up again. The pickles are delicious!!



Happy Valentine's Day!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

| | | | |
|---|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| Gilbert Ayers | Palagia Hlava | Pastor Just | Lorene Kozar |
| Becky Larkins | Stephanie Manijak | Ruth Martzowka | Timothy Nicely |
| Carol Poston | Heather Poston | Patty Abramovich | Adalyn |
| Jayme Almashy | Diane Altier | Betsy & Peggy | Ray Bishop |
| Barb Basmagy | Archer Bradshaw | Heather Burton | Marshall Camp |
| Carl | Russ & Lana Carnes | David Colvin | Dan |
| Darlene | Billy Earle Jr. | Evelyn | Evelyn French |
| Dennis Fuldauer | Tresse Gardner | Daniel Gump | Mary Hardesty |
| Heather | Karen | Lance | Vicar Herr & Jackie |
| Naomi Just-Maze | Karen | Lance | Laura |
| Calee Langston | Theresa Ludwigsen | Kim & daughter | Maria Knittle |
| Frank Manijak | Eva McCall | McGowan family | Amanda Nicely |
| Larry Powell | Powers Family | Tom Reed | Richard |
| Will Robert | Eleanor Sears | Helen Stanley | Jean Schneider family |
| Pastor Bob Tauscher | Don Thornton | Gretchen Vaughn | Bennie Wegener |
| Weston & Logan | Renee White | Ukraine refugees | COVID-19 patients |
| All Natural disaster victims | Healthy pregnancies for family and friends | | Gaza & Israel victims |
| Tuscarawas Valley School community and the driver of the semi | | | Our military veterans |

We would love to have updates on our prayer list. If you have good news about someone on this list please let the church know or call Marla at 330-472-3045. Thank you!

Our shut-ins—please send them a card

Carole Poston
12790 Chamberlain
Aurora, OH 44202

Lorene Kozar
8460 Westport Dr. #225
Mentor, Oh 44060

Our College Students—Grace Rohaley, Abigail Ayers, Corey Hautmann, Thomas Ayers, Jenna Zimmerman, Jacob Zimmerman

Our Military members—Troy Roman and Ben Wolff

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

10-Tina Hagen
16-Kristine Just



FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Bob Earle
23-Marla Manijak

If anyone has been left off this list or any other list, please let Marla Manijak know so she can add you. I would love birthdays and anniversaries and baptism birthdays if you know when it is. Thanks!

Church Council will be meeting Thursday, February 15 after the bible study at 7:00 p.m. If there is something you would like the council to work on, please let one of the council members know. They are Steve Hlava, president, Del Groff, Guy Jeanblanc, Joyce Torres, Deb Wolff, Gilbert Ayers and Stephanie Manijak.

Contact Person: Please call Pastor Blake Martzowka at the church on Thursdays from 9-3 at 330-626-4945 or on his cell phone 989-372-5318 for emergencies or Council President Steve Hlava at 330 422-1959 for any emergencies or questions.

FINANCE REPORTS

**St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 2247
9042 State Route 43
Streetsboro, OH 44241**

Change Service Requested

**THE PARISH VOICE NEWSLETTER
Office: 330-626-4945
Web Site: www.stthomasstreetsboro.com**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.

PLEASE JOIN US INSIDE

LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

OR IN CHURCH PARKING LOT ON CHANNEL 96.9 FM

BIBLE STUDY THURSDAYS 6:00 P.M.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

6-Joanna Nicely
6-Gabe Manijak
12-Deb Wolff
21-Nicole Manijak
22-Sam Nicely
28-Logan Hagen
29-Rory Wolff
30-Becky Larkins



JANUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

11-Kathy Brashear
13-Ben Wolff
25-Grace Rohaley
31-Amy Rohaley

Anniversaries

24-Jim & Jeanette Doerfler—Jeanette passed

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

10-Tina Hagen
16-Kristine Just



FEBRUARY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Bob Earle
23-Marla Manijak

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Jen Jones
4-Joyce Torres
9-Samantha Weber
9-Kari Earle
12-Trudy Ayers
13-Tim Nicely
21-Tom Beuck
24-Palagia Hlava
25-Ian Phillips
31 Aaron Fuldauer



MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism birthdays

7-Becky Larkins
11-Abigail Ayers
23-Ken Nicely III

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

8-Peter Malherk
16-Wendy Weber
18-Jodi Earle
19-Haley Rohaley
19-Aggie Blankenship



APRIL BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

18-Mike Phillips
20-Stephen Nicely
24-Kari Earle
30-Haley Rohaley

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

4-Leona Corban
6-Lorene Kozar
14-Mike Phillips
24-Deb Earle



MAY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

1-Deb Wolff
13-Nicole Manijak
14-Ian Phillips
19-Tim Nicely
23-Jen Jones

Happy Anniversary to...
1 Steve & Marla Manijak
12 Steve & Sherry Crile
13-Blake & Ruth Martzowka
18 Del & Donna Groff
26 Guy and Judith Jeanblanc

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

17-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Stephen Nicely
25-Del Groff
26-Ruth Martzowka
27-Gilbert Ayers
29-Corey Hautmann
30-Diane Lee



JUNE BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

10-Deb Earle
18-Jim Doerfler
24-Logan Hagen
24-Gavin Hagen
24-Samantha Weber
24-Vickie Weber
24-Jillian Earle

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Tina & Russ Hagen
21-Rocky & Kim Kinder
29-Steve & Palagia Hlava

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

4-David Kanengeiser
10-Steve Crile
11-Bill Crile
12-Diane Reynolds
13-Keith Larkins
20-Bob Earle
23-Sharon Crile



JULY BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

2-Diane Lee
20-Jodi Earle
21-Pete Malherek

Happy Anniversary to...
21-Bob & Carole Earle
30-Rory & Deb Wolff

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

8-Denise Nicely
11-Steve Manijak
12-Lynn Kanengeiser
23-Marla Manijak
27-Lori Ludeman
30-Marcy Harrison
31-Tracy Fuldauer



AUGUST BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

20-Ruth Martzowka

Happy Anniversary to...

2-Tom & Jen Jones

2-Kenny & Amanda Nicely

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

5-Cathy Fairchild
9-Gavin Hagen
9-Jenna Zimmerman
9-Jacob Zimmerman
10-Noah Paskett
10-Nick Phillips
15-Amanda Nicely
17-Steve Hlava
19-Jillian Earle
20-Jarid Phillips
21-Patty Phillips
27-Carole Earle
29-Anibal Torres



SEPTEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

4-Gabe Manijak
16-Corey Hautmann

Happy Anniversary to...

5-Daveid & Lynn Kanengeiser

6-Tom & Linda Beuck

18-Gilbert & Trudy Ayers

26-Bill & Sharon Crile

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Kim Kinder
3-Kathy Brashear
7-Joe Earle
9-Jim Doerfler
15-Stephanie Manijak
17- Abigail Ayers
20-Madelyn Ayers
24-Linda Beuck
27-Linda Hautmann
31-Brianne Wolff
31-Richard Kanengeiser



OCTOBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

9-Trudy Ayers
13-Joanna Nicely
13-Gilbert Ayers
13-Thomas Ayers
20-Nick Phillips
Steve Hlava
David Kanengeiser

Happy Anniversary to...

4-Keith & Becky Larkins

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

3-Levi Just
9-Ken Nicely III
12-Dusty Basmagy
17-Grace Rohaley
24-Amy Rohaley
29-Thomas Ayers



NOVEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

4-Stephanie Manijak
14-Jarid Phillips
29-Sam Nicely

Happy Anniversary to...
9-Sam & Denise Nicely
29-Pastor & Kristine Just

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays

2-Pastor Just
13-Robin Hoffman
17-Vicki Weber
21-Ben Wolff



DECEMBER BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Baptism Birthdays

19-Elizabeth Ayers
19-Madelyn Ayers
27-Linda Hautmann
Lynn Kanengeiser
Richard Kanengeiser

Happy Anniversary to...
8-Anibal & Joyce Torres